

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

SOPHIE HEIMBACH'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful woman, Sophie Heimbach who will be 100 years old on August 10, 2001. As is the case with most Jews born in the early twentieth century, Sophie's life began very peacefully, and happily. She was born on August 10, 1901 in Ochtrup, Germany. In 1938, with the rising strength of the Nazi party, Sophie was forced to flee Germany. While at first she was able to make a new home in Belgium, the outbreak of World War Two forced her to flee again, this time for France, Spain, Portugal, and finally Casablanca. As if being uprooted from one's home and having a death marking on one's chest were not bad enough, Sophie was also separated from her family for a very painful period of time. We have all heard tales of the horrors for the Jews during World War Two, but this woman lived them, and she did it not knowing what would become of her family.

Sophie was reunited with her husband and family in Casablanca, and from that point slowly began to relearn the small joys in life, even amidst pain. Casablanca led Sophie and her family to Cuba, and then eventually to the United States in 1942. They moved to Goshen, New York where Sophie earned her U.S. citizenship in 1947. Sophie and her husband worked diligently and humbly in their first months in the United States. She worked as a housekeeper for a wealthy landowner, and her husband Arthur as a farm hand. After a mere nine months, Sophie and Arthur had the resources to fulfill their American dream enabling them to purchase the family farm in Walkill, New York. The Heimbach family flourished during their time in Walkill, and succeeded in developing their farm to over 400 acres.

Arthur is now deceased, but he and Sophie are followed by two children, Charlotte and Louis, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Sophie is a woman of great devotion and dedication to her temple, her home and her family. She has lived a full life with as much grief as joy, hardship as luck. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her on her milestone 100th birthday.

PROSPECTS FOR UNITED STATES-
VENEZUELAN RELATIONS IN THE
CHAVEZ ERA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, United States-Venezuelan relations recently have become a matter of concern on the current administration's Latin American foreign policy agenda due to some provocative statements made by President Hugo Chavez. The United States imports 14 percent of its oil from Venezuela, and with President Chavez being driven by his concern over maximizing profits to help serve one of his own policy goals of creating a "Latin American Union," the United States has possible cause for worry that what may be good for Venezuela may not be good for American interests.

Chavez also has visited recently with Saddam Hussein and Fidel Castro, criticized Plan Colombia and denounced Washington's \$1.3 billion funding of it, which has heightened Washington's edginess over the new status quo. But all of us must keep in mind that it is all but certain that the Venezuelan president's vision for a more unified Latin America will not disappear, and is shared by millions of other Latin Americans.

It is clear that patience is being called for as well as a sense of proportionality. After all, Chavez, at the present time, poses no danger to vital United States interests, and we risk destructive backlash from Latin America if the United States acts too harshly against the Venezuelan leader. Moreover, many of his condemnations of the development model are also being echoed by dissident IMF and World Bank officials.

The following research memorandum was authored by Pamela Spivack and Jill Freeman, Research Associates with the Washington-based Council of Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), an organization that has been long committed to addressing issues associated with democracy and human rights throughout the Hemisphere. COHA's researchers have often spoken out about controversial United States policies towards Latin American countries, and we have all benefited over the years from such insights. The attached article, which will appear in this organization's estimable biweekly publication, *The Washington Report on the Hemisphere*, addresses United States-Venezuelan relations and how Chavez's rhetoric has worried and concerned Washington. The article also points out that these alienating attitudes toward the United States as well as Venezuela's status as the world's third largest oil exporter are potential causes for the United States to reexamine its benign policies toward Caracas, emphasizing that caution and moderation are now required.

[From the Washington Report on the Hemisphere, June 25, 2001]

CAPITAL WATCH: PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-
VENEZUELAN RELATIONS IN THE CHAVEZ ERA

As concern grows in Washington over President Hugo Chavez's domestic and foreign policy moves, relations with Caracas could soon being to seriously erode. Chavez's leftist Bolivarian rhetoric, his opposition to U.S. antidrug initiatives in Colombia, his close friendship with Fidel Castro, as well as the country's status as a major supplier of petroleum to the U.S., may persuade the administration to reexamine its relatively docile policies towards Venezuela.

The hero of the country's poor, his constituency carried him to an overwhelming victory first in 1998, and then again in 2000. Chavez speaks about integrating the continent, including the military, which is of great importance for both the goals of justice and the ability to combat external imperialist measures. Meanwhile, the Bush administration's fears that the strong man will need to be cut down are growing. Although the State Department's Peter Romero blasted Chavez's support of Colombia's leftist guerrillas in front of a Miami-Cuban audience, Washington's fears had remained latent, far down on its hemispheric agenda. This benign stance was due to the Clinton administration's "positive engagement" policy, geared to facilitate equitable ties with the rest of the region. However, there is speculation that Bush may more intensely monitor Caracas' political and economic actions in an effort to block Chavez's "Latin American Union" from coming to fruition.

DISSEMINATION OF VENEZUELAN RHETORIC

To the consternation of Washington policymakers, specific events have highlighted Chavez's efforts to export his peaceful revolution to neighboring countries. He has roundly criticized Plan Colombia, a massive U.S. military-driven scenario aimed at interdicting and destroying the drug cartels. He recently denounced Washington's \$1.3 billion funding of it as well as its components, such as intensified training of the military and Bogota's growing deployment of offensive helicopters, as a dangerous intervention that will not be successful. At a news conference at the U.N. Millennium Summit, September 2000, Chavez emphasized, "The only solution for Colombia is peace. Sending helicopter gunships to

Colombia is not the only regional country of interest to the Venezuelan leader. According to *El Pais* of Spain, there is evidence that Caracas has supported radicalized indigenous movements in Bolivia to demonstrate the solidarity of like-minded movements. At the Ibero-American Summit in Panama, 2000, Bolivian president Hugo Banzer exhibited some animosity towards Chavez for his alleged support of such movements. As has been noted in the *Miami Herald*, Chavez also has been accused of supplying equipment to the indigenous and military figures who later staged a coup in Ecuador. The paper implicated the Venezuelan leader in the delivery of over \$500,000 to Colonel Lucio Gutierrez, who overthrew the Ecuadorian government of Jamil Mahuad. In his failed

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